

REPORT OF THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COMMITTEE

Beginning with its formation in the fall of 2003, The Downtown Revitalization Committee (DRC) has been working toward completing its goal of changing the former railroad center into a multi-generational, multi-use park. The park is nestled behind Town Hall, where in earlier years it bustled with activity as passenger and freight trains arrived at the Village Station.

Railroad activity ended at the Village Station in 1942 while we were engaged in WWII. During the 1960's the Alton Fire Department used the station for educational training.

In the past five years committee members and volunteers have completed walking paths within the park enabling townspeople and visitors to have easy access to the parking lot, toddler playground with sandbox, wetland boardwalk, and entryways to the park from Depot Street and Old Wolfeboro Hill Road. The 1960 B&M freight building has been refurbished and is the main attraction in the park with the 1921 caboose standing next to it on tracks as though waiting for bags of grain to be loaded into the freight building or a waiting wagon.

Another nearby attraction is the newly built, educational wetland boardwalk. Soon, three new signs will provide information and sketches of the varied flowers, fauna, birds, and wildlife found in the wetland area. There are benches and there will be an additional picnic table soon that will be located near the playground. These will provide a safe place to picnic and watch children play. Seven newly planted liberty elm trees have been added and will someday provide needed shaded areas in the park.

This coming spring of 2009, the DRC, on behalf of the Town, will be receiving an exciting addition to the Railroad Park, the Loon Cove RR Station. This c. 1880's station was part of the scenic Lake Shore Railroad Line. It will take its place beside the refurbished B&M Railroad Freight Building.

There is a "ToDo List" for money raised through community donations, fund raising and grants. These include: platforms with a handicap ramp for the freight building, refurbishing the RR Station, purchasing BBQ grills, game tables, Veteran Memorial plaques for the American Legion flag pole base, a volley ball/badminton court and a horseshoe pit.

The park is environmentally friendly and handicapped accessible facility. We, the Downtown Revitalization Committee, wish to thank all the patrons and volunteers for making this park possible for all to enjoy. We urge you to come visit the park soon and see what has been done during the past five years!

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Fry, Chairman